

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in this application.

The title was objected to as being non-descriptive. Without conceding the examiner's position, the title has been amended.

Claim 26 was objected to due to insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the network processor" in line 1. Claim 26 has been amended.

Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 11 was amended to call for "a computer program product, tangibly embodied in a machine-readable medium, the computer program product being operable to cause a machine to allocate a memory entry ..." Claim 11 claims a machine-readable medium which is an article of manufacture.

Claims 24-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These claims have been amended.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 11, 21, 24, 27, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over *Aipperspach* (U.S. Patent 5,778,243) in view of *Ramakrishnan* (U.S. Patent 6,615,311).

Claim 1 recites a method that includes "allocating a memory entry in a memory device to instructions executed on a multithreaded engine included in a packet processor, a portion of the memory entry includes a unique identifier assigned to the instructions."

The examiner concedes that *Aipperspach* provides no disclosure of "a portion of the memory entry includes a unique identifier assigned to the instructions" as recited in claim 1, and relies on *Ramakrishnan* for such teaching, stating that "'prefix entry mask word' is analogous to 'unique identifier.'" (page 5 of action). Applicant disagrees. First, applicant notes that the term "prefix entry mask word" is not used in any portion of *Ramakrishnan*, cited or otherwise. Rather, the term used in *Ramakrishnan* is "prefix mask word." Further, contrary to the examiner's assertion that the "prefix entry mask word" associates the number of bits needed for a match between a CAM entry and its assigned instruction" (page 5 of action), what *Ramakrishnan* actually states is that a "prefix mask work associated with each CAM entry indicates the number

of significant bits that must be matched in each entry.” (col. 1 lines 34-36). The prefix mask word of *Ramakrishnan* is not “assigned to instructions,” as required in claim 1. *Ramarkrishnan* provides no disclosure of “a portion of the memory entry includes a unique identifier assigned to the instructions” as recited in claim 1.

Claims 11, 21, 24, 27, and 30 contain similar limitations as claim 1 and are patentable for similar reasons.

Claims 2, 4-5, 12, 14-15, 22, 25, 28, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Aipperspach* in view of *Ramakrishnan*, and further in view of *Pereira et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,697,276).

Claims 3, 6-10, 13, 16-20, 23, 26, 29, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Aipperspach* in view of *Ramakrishnan*, and further in view of *Litt et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0126358).

All dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the claims on which they depend.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

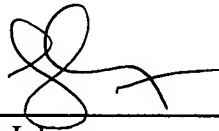
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Enclosed is a \$450 check for excess claim fees and a \$120.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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